

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable pinhole for the illumination beam path and/or detection beam path of a laser scanning microscope, comprising that the pinhole is defined by foil edges which are adjustable relative to one another,

the foils have solid-state joints and the solid-state joints which are driven by motor are provided for adjusting the foil edges.

a referencing of a stepping motor drive is carried out by means of a path measuring system and/or an optical detector for detecting the amount of light passing through the pinhole,

wherein the pinhole can be closed in such a way that the foils overlap and at least one of the foils has an offset to prevent collision

wherein an adjustment is carried out by a stepping motor which drives, by two spindles running in the same direction, a plurality of plates which are displaceable at different pitches, the foils being fastened to the plates.

2. (Original) The adjustable pinhole according to claim 1, wherein at least two foils, each with at least one straight edge, are arranged relative to one another and/or connected to one another in such a way that their edges describe an L-shape and the L-shaped connection pieces are arranged on one another in such a way that they define a rhombic or square light passage and are moved relative to one another for adjusting the pinhole.

3. (Original) The adjustable pinhole according to claim 2, wherein the movement direction is the direction of the bisecting line of the angle defined by the L-shape or of another angle lying within the defined angle.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)